

Hello,

I am a mother of four children. Two of my children attend a failing school within our district that we live in. A few years ago, I had thought about enrolling my children into a private school due to my children becoming lost in the public school system. I didn't make that decision then but wish that I would have. For the last few years, the lack of communication, compassion and discipline within the public school system has deteriorated. My 8th grade daughter has witnessed 8 fights 2 of which have happened in the classroom, an assault on her teacher from a student and two raids. She is constantly distracted by poor behavior that is being allowed in the school and is being allowed by her teachers. On three separate occasions, I have requested to have a meeting about her progress in school and have been greeted with resistance or not greeted at all by the teachers simply not showing up to the meeting that was scheduled.

My son who is in the 6th grade has struggled with ADHD and has been placed on a 504 plan. He has certain accommodations that should be made for him during testing, etc. However, those accommodations have not been made. I have contacted the school on numerous occasions and they simply seem lost as if they had no clue that he needed a quiet area to test. On the other side, he was supposed to be receiving speech therapy monthly but has not yet had a meeting for over a year. All that has been in his plan.

My oldest daughter is a freshman, she is in all honors and AP classes. She hates school now that she has entered high school. She states that there is no control of the other students behavior and that she feels that she doesn't fit because people are simply disrespectful and don't take their education seriously.

This winter, I decided that this was a good time to enroll my children into a private school. Without ED Choice that would not be possible. I have applied and paid \$600 in fees for them to be able to attend. I have applied for scholarships. My children are incredibly excited for the change in schools. I am incredibly excited for their future within the private school system. As a parent I want the option to give my children the best education possible. I want them to be successful after high school and have a great foundation for the future. It is apparent to me that this is not going to be possible in the public school system. I am an educator and I know the importance of a solid education. I am asking the education committee to keep the ED Choice program available, not only for my children but for all the children and parents that want a great education for their children.

Sincerely,

Melissa Knee